

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A locking element for holding
2 together threaded parts such as screws and nuts against undesired
3 loosening, the locking element comprising ~~at least~~ two annular lock
4 washers lying on each other and having center holes, ~~wherein~~ the
5 washers having inner ~~[[sur]]~~ faces lying on each other ~~[[have]]~~ and
6 provided with teeth and ~~[[the]]~~ outer faces ~~[[are]]~~ turned away
7 from each other and also provided with teeth, ~~characterized in that~~
8 ~~at least one of the washers being formed at the respective~~ center
9 hole ~~(14) has on the respective outer face with a rounding [[(6)]]~~
10 or a groove ~~(24) one the inner face that is provided with teeth.~~

1 2. (currently amended) The locking element, possibly
2 according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the tooth wherein~~ edges
3 ~~[[(8)]]~~ of the ~~tooth flanks (7)~~ teeth of the inner faces are
4 oriented off-radial.

1 3. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ~~[[tooth]]~~ edges ~~[[(8)]]~~
3 of the ~~tooth flanks (7)~~ teeth of the inner faces are V-shaped.

1 4. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ~~[[tooth]]~~ edges ~~[[(8)]]~~
3 of the ~~tooth flanks (7)~~ teeth of the inner faces are U-shaped.

1 5. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~[[tooth]]~~ edges ~~[[8]]~~
3 of the ~~tooth flanks (7)~~ teeth of the inner faces are S-shaped.

4 6. (currently amended) The locking element, possibly
5 according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the edges of
6 the teeth of the outer faces ~~[[5]]~~ have a non-radial direction.

1 7. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the edges of the teeth of
3 the outer faces ~~[[5]]~~ have a curvature.

1 8. (currently amended) The locking element ~~, possibly~~
2 according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a
3 sleeve connecting the lock washers ~~(1, 2)~~ are connected to each
4 other ~~by means of a sleeve (16, 21)~~.

1 9. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve ~~[[21]]~~ is
3 disposed on inner surfaces of the center holes ~~[[14]]~~.

1 10. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve ~~[[16]]~~ is
3 disposed on outer surfaces of the lock washers ~~(1, 2)~~.

11. (canceled)

1 12. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve ~~(16, 21)~~ has a
3 lip that laterally extends over or into an edge of the lock washers
4 ~~(1, 2)~~.

1 13. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip is annular.

1 14. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip is formed by
3 tabs ~~[[18]]~~.

1 15. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~tabs are~~ lip is
3 formed by annular segments ~~[[17]]~~.

1 16. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve is a slotted
3 ring.

1 17. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a transition between the
3 sleeve ~~(16, 21)~~ and the lip has a rounding ~~[[and/]]~~ or a chamfer.

1 18. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a transition between the
3 sleeve and the lip is ~~designed~~ perpendicular.

1 19. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lock washers have a
3 groove ~~(22, 23)~~ for receiving the lip.